

## **Excellence in Recycling Awards Proposal: Call for Nominations Submissions Due March 10, 2017**

In 2017, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will award recycling leaders in Michigan who excelled in creating or enhancing recycling programs, educational programs, or closed loop manufacturing. The purpose of these awards is to recognize and celebrate achievements from 2016, such as increased access to recycling programs, utilization of recycled materials, creation of recycled products, and implementation of effective educational campaigns. The purpose is also to stimulate others to emulate these successes.

The 2017 Excellence in Recycling Awards will be distributed during an awards ceremony at the 2017 Governor's Recycling Summit on May 19, 2017. These awards support Governor Rick Snyder's initiative to double Michigan's recycling rate.

### **Award Nomination Procedures and Criteria:**

You may nominate yourself or your business/organization. Nominations are limited to a single award type and award category.

- The applicant or project must be located in Michigan.
- The applicant must agree to share their project or program with others.
- Nominations must be submitted via the online form. The online nomination form is located here:  
**<http://www.deq.state.mi.us/eforms/2017RecyclingAwardNomination.html>**.
- Attachments, such as supporting documentation and photographs, are encouraged and may be submitted to: **DEQ-Recycling@michigan.gov**.
- Please include the name of the organization and nominated award type in the message heading).
- Nominations and supporting documentation must be received by March 10, 2017.
- Winners will be informed of their selection for recognition by early April.

**Outstanding Education Program Award:** From youths to adults, an informed and supportive public is crucial to increasing recycling. This award recognizes an individual or group for their commitment to educating others about the need for, and benefits of, recycling. Specific application criteria include: (1) description of innovative or unique program elements; (2) type and size of audience impacted; and (3) metrics that demonstrate program effectiveness.\*

Award categories:

- Institutions and organizations educating K-12 youth.
- Private solid waste and recycling businesses.
- Recycling education events.

**New or Enhanced Program Award:** A thriving recycling system in Michigan starts with access to recycling programs at a community level. This award seeks to highlight a new or enhanced recycling program that has made noteworthy strides in recycling access in their community during 2016. Specific application criteria include: (1) description of innovative or unique

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\*If participation rate is a metric used to demonstrate program effectiveness of a curbside recycling program, please include participation rate as identified by the following definition: the percentage of homes that put their recycling container out for collection at least once during a one month period (this is not the total number of pick-ups).

program elements; (2) population served by increased access area; and (3) metrics that demonstrate program effectiveness\*. Award categories:

- New program: This category describes a new recycling program servicing a municipality, organization, private company, education institution, or other entity that previously had no access to recycling.
- Enhanced program: This category describes an area where recycling service was previously provided and has been expanded upon. Examples include projects such as bins to carts, expansion of materials collected, expansion of access, expansion of reduction or reuse opportunities, etc.

**Closing the Recycling Loop Award:** This award recognizes businesses that make products from recycled material (such as paper, metal, glass, plastic, or food waste) generated by Michigan households and businesses. MDEQ recognizes that a material isn't truly recycled until it is changed into a new product to be used again. This award will help tell the story that recycling is a supply chain that results in commodities moving from the curb to new products made in Michigan. Specific application criteria include: (1) a description of the product; (2) the type of recycled material used; (3) specific Michigan communities and businesses, to the extent possible, whose recyclables are being used in the product; and (4) metrics or data that help demonstrate the tons and/or scope of recycled materials used in product development.

#### **Evaluations of Nominations:**

A panel of representatives from the MDEQ will evaluate all applications. The MDEQ reserves the right to contact applicants for further information.

#### **Information Needed on Nomination Form:**

- Name of company/association/organization or individual being nominated.\*\*
- Mailing address.
- Person responsible for preparing application / title.
- Nominator's address.
- Nominator's phone number.
- Nominator's email address.
- State representative's name and district.
- State senator's name and district.

**Category of the Nomination** (Nominations are limited to a single award type and award category):

- Award Type: Outstanding Education Program
  - Category: Institutions and organizations educating K-12 youth
  - Category: Private solid waste and recycling business
  - Category: Recycling education events

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\*\*Unless otherwise specified on the online form, the *nominated* party will be informed of a successful award selection. As a nominator, please inform the nominated party that they have been nominated for an award. This will assist the MDEQ in reaching the appropriate individual after awardees are selected.

- Award Type: New or Enhanced Program Award in 2016
  - Category: New Program
  - Category: Enhanced Program
- Award Type: Closing the Recycling Loop

**Description and Supporting Information:**

Provide a brief description of the company, organization, or individual nominee, identifying the nominee's contributions to Michigan's recycling program (no more than two paragraphs).

Applicants are encouraged to submit attachments that demonstrate program features but are asked to limit attachments to no more than three pages. Please include a photograph or logo with the application (to be used in award ceremony, if selected).

**Submission:**

Please submit the full package electronically by March 10, 2017. The online nomination form is located here: <http://www.deq.state.mi.us/eforms/2017RecyclingAwardNomination.html>.

Attachments such as supporting documentation and photographs may be submitted to **DEQ-Recycling@michigan.gov** (please include the name of the organization and nominated award type in the message heading).

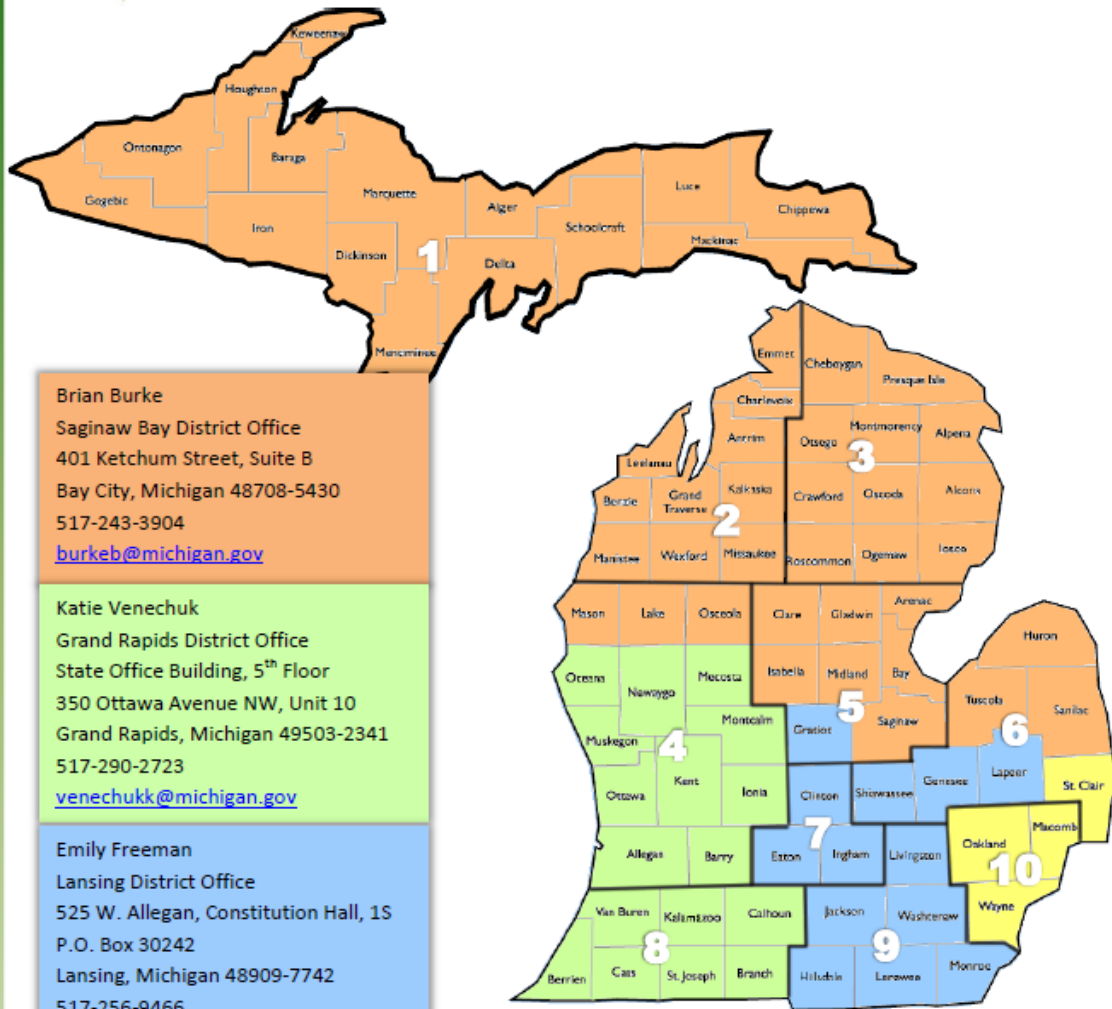
For further information, visit the MDEQ Recycling web page at [www.michigan.gov/mirecycles](http://www.michigan.gov/mirecycles), or contact your regional MDEQ recycling and waste minimization specialist (map and contact information enclosed).

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## RESIDENTIAL RECYCLING INITIATIVE

Michigan Department of Environmental Quality  
Recycling and Waste Minimization Specialists



**Brian Burke**  
Saginaw Bay District Office  
401 Ketchum Street, Suite B  
Bay City, Michigan 48708-5430  
517-243-3904  
[burkeb@michigan.gov](mailto:burkeb@michigan.gov)

**Katie Venchuk**  
Grand Rapids District Office  
State Office Building, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
350 Ottawa Avenue NW, Unit 10  
Grand Rapids, Michigan 49503-2341  
517-290-2723  
[venchukk@michigan.gov](mailto:venchukk@michigan.gov)

**Emily Freeman**  
Lansing District Office  
525 W. Allegan, Constitution Hall, 1S  
P.O. Box 30242  
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7742  
517-256-9466  
[freemane@michigan.gov](mailto:freemane@michigan.gov)

**Elizabeth Garver**  
Southeast Michigan District Office  
27700 Donald Court  
Warren, Michigan 48092-2793  
586-753-3837  
[garvere2@michigan.gov](mailto:garvere2@michigan.gov)

**To report an environmental emergency to the DEQ: 800-292-4706**  
**Pollution Emergency Alerting System (PEAS)**

### MICHIGAN PROSPERITY REGIONS

1. Upper Peninsula, 2. Northwest, 3. Northeast, 4. West Michigan, 5. East Central,  
6. East Michigan, 7. South Central, 8. Southwest, 9. Southeast, 10. Detroit Metro